

UNBALANCED RELATIONSHIPS, FAILED MARRIAGES

Whenever two persons get into a relationship with hopes of marriage, the stakes rise dramatically. This isn't a case of simple friendship anymore. Here is a couple that is seriously thinking of spending a lifetime together, having children and finding their happiness as a family. This is no small undertaking.

Not all relationships are equal. Some have great potential for working out. Others less, and there are those that don't stand the chance of a snowflake in hell.

But how can you know what the odds are when you are overwhelmed by those good feelings that wash over new love? Even couples who are immature and whose relationships are doomed to fail feel the ecstasy of love, and perhaps even more strongly than some more matured and solid lovers.

There are many things to look for, many clues that will give you a good indication about your chances of success. For purposes of this column, let me focus on just one: the unbalanced relationships.

This is the kind of relationship where you care a whole lot more for the other person than that person cares for you, or vice-versa. Either way, the relationship is out of balance.

In my counseling, I see unbalanced relationships all the time, and they are always unhappy. Unhappy because one partner is carrying the weight of most of the relationship while the other is merely cruising along. During counseling, when the reality of just how unbalanced is the relationship becomes known, there is shock and consternation. So if you are into an unbalanced relationship before you marry, perhaps you should give marriage a second thought before taking the plunge.

Here are a few signs of an unbalanced courtship/relationship;

You initiate most of the contact. You're always calling him, running after him. He seems to have a lot less interest in you, in building a strong relationship than you have.

You keep making sacrifices for him, but he makes few for you. You keep giving in to what he wants, when he wants and how he wants. He isn't one to reciprocate.

You keep making plans to meet, to go out, but he keeps postponing them, or changing them.

You are full of love, while he rarely talks about your relationship or shares in your excitement.

You like to discuss future plans, but he is unresponsive. He won't fight you, but he just doesn't care to talk about it.

You truly like children whereas he merely tolerates them. Chances are, if you marry him, he won't be very involved with the kids.

You spend for him on dates where, customarily, the man should be the one to pay.

You like to stay at home and enjoy a quiet evening. He likes being out drinking with the boys.

Things like that. Look carefully at what's happening now and then project into the future and pretend that things won't change. Then try to measure the kind of relationship you will most likely have. If it looks very unbalanced, it should give you pause before planning the wedding.